

REMARKS

In the December 15, 2003, final Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-14, and 17-40 were rejected, while claims 15 and 16 were objected to and indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicant has amended the pending claims to place this application in a condition for allowance.

In particular, Applicant has canceled independent claim 1, and amended independent claim 2 to add thereto the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 14 and 15, and has canceled dependent claims 14 and 15. Thus, independent claim 2 is believed allowable per the December 15, 2003 Action. Dependent claims 3, 6-13, 16, and 17 are all dependent upon allowable independent claim 2 and are amended as necessary as to form. Thus, dependent claims 3, 6-13, 16, and 17 are likewise believed allowable.

Applicant notes that previously amended independent claim 18 is similar to, but narrower than, previously amended independent claim 2, and that original dependent claim 29 is the same as original dependent claim 15, which has been deemed allowable. That is, both dependent claims 15 and 29 recite heating the reshaping device using a liquid with a predetermined temperature and administering the liquid through an irrigation port in the reshaping device.

Therefore, Applicant believes that dependent claim 29 should be allowable as is dependent claim 15 in accordance with the December 15, 2003 Action. Thus, Applicant has amended independent claim 18 to add thereto the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 28 and 29, and has canceled dependent claims 28 and 29. Accordingly, amended independent claim 18 is believed allowable.

Appln. No. 09/986,141
Amdt. dated June 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 15, 2003

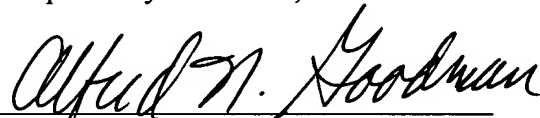
Dependent claims 19-27 and 30-31 are all dependent upon allowable independent claim 18 and are amended as necessary as to form. Thus, dependent claims 19-27 and 30-31 are likewise believed allowable.

Finally, independent claim 32 and its dependent claims 33-40 are canceled.

This leaves claims 2, 3, 6-13, 16-27, and 30-31 in this application with claims 2 and 18 being independent, and all of these claims believed allowable.

Prompt and favorable reexamination and allowance of this application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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